

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### $\sigma$ -Hole $\cdots\pi$ and Lone Pair $\cdots\pi$ Interactions in Benzylic Halides

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## X-Ray data collection and structure refinement

Data collection for **1**, was carried out at room temperature on a Bruker Smart CCD diffractometer and on a Xcalibur, Atlas CCD diffractometer for **2** and **3**, using in all cases graphite-monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda=0.71073$  Å) operating at 50 kV and 20 mA for **1** and at 50 kV and 40 mA for **2** and **3**. The exposure times were 20s for **1** and 6.0s and 17.10s **2** and **3** in omega. A summary of the fundamental crystal and refinement data is given in Table 1. The structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures on F<sup>2</sup> (SHELXL-97)\*. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All hydrogen atoms were included in their calculated positions and refined riding on the respective carbon atoms.

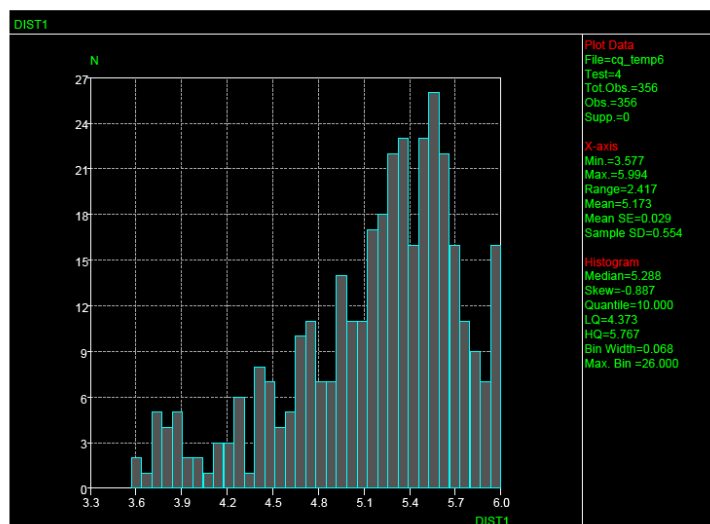
“CCDC 1007894-1007896 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).”

\*G.M. Sheldrick, ‘SHELX97, Program for Refinement of Crystal Structure’, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, 1997

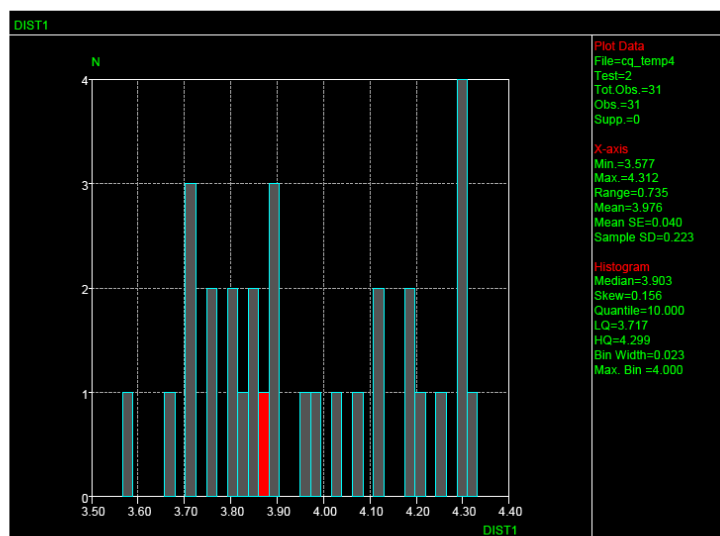
Table 1. Crystal data and Refinement Data for **1**, **2** and **3**.

Crystal Data	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
empirical formula	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>15</sub> I	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>15</sub> Br	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>15</sub> Cl
formula wt	298.15	251.16	206.70
crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
space group	P2(1)/n	P2(1)/n	P2(1)/n
<i>a</i> /Å	6.350(5)	6.201(5)	6.3915(4)
<i>b</i> /Å	31.01(3)	30.714(5)	6.8582(5)
<i>c</i> /Å	6.458(5)	6.350(5)	24.607(2)
$\alpha$ /°	90	90	90
$\beta$ /°	112.53(1)	114.351(5)	94.259(7)
$\gamma$ /°	90	90	90
<i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	1175(2)	1102(1)	1075.7(1)
<i>Z</i>	4	4	4
<i>D<sub>c</sub></i> /g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.686	1.514	1.276
$\mu$ (Mo-K $\alpha$ ) /mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.687	3.688	0.311
F(000)	584	512	440
$\theta$ range/°	1.31 to 25.00	3.58 to 25.01	3.32 to 25.01
index ranges	-7,-36,-7 to 5, 33, 7	-5,-36,-7 to 7, 36, 6	-7,-6,-29 to 7, 8, 25
reflections collected	6319	4416	4401
unique reflections [Rint]	2055 [Rint = 0.1078]	1866 [R(int) = 0.0247]	1891 [R(int) = 0.0356]
completeness to theta	98.7%	95.7%	99.8%
data/restraints/params	2055 / 0 / 127	1866 / 0 / 127	1891 / 0 / 127
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	0.997	0.997	0.998
R1 (reflns obsd) [I>2 $\sigma$ (I)] <sup>a</sup>	0.0442 (1483)	0.0360 (1474)	0.0439 (1343)
wR2 (all data) <sup>b</sup>	0.1018	0.0865	0.0959

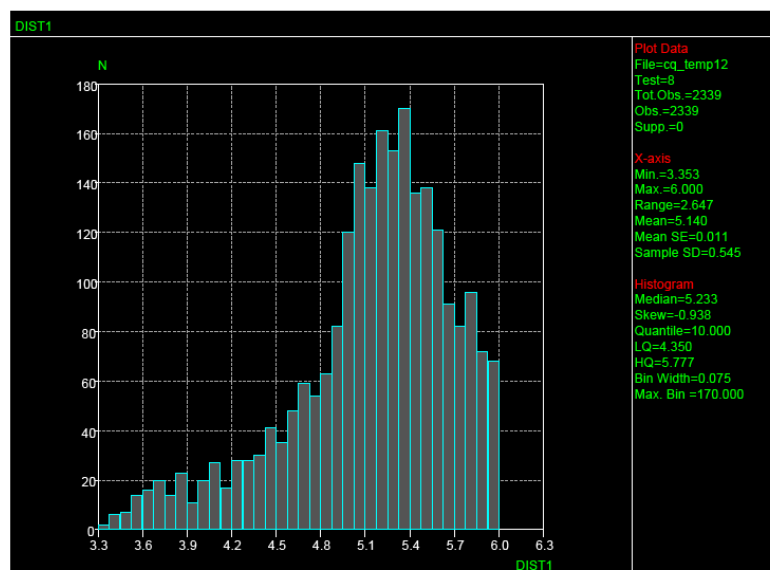
$$^a R1 = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|} \quad ^b wR2 = \left\{ \frac{\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]}{\sum [w(F_o^2)]} \right\}$$



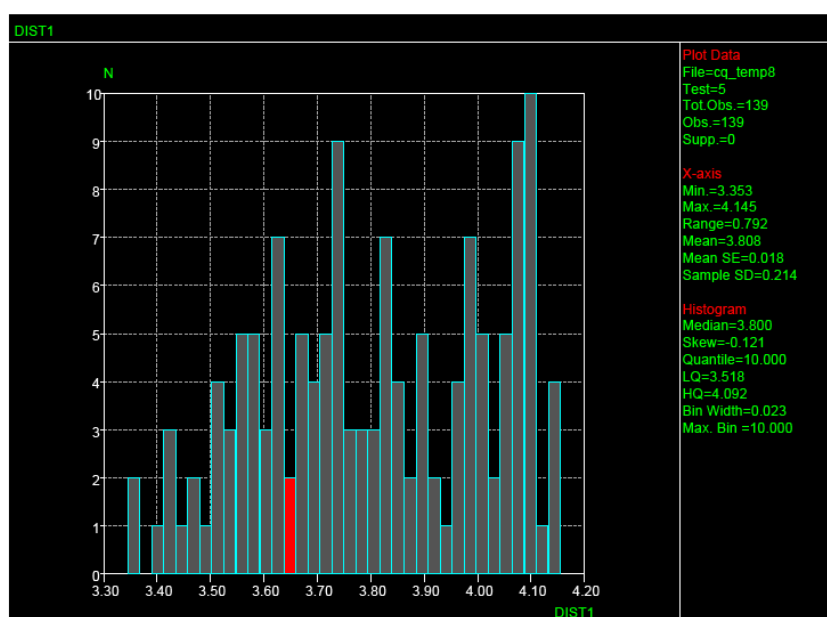
**Figure S1** Histogram from a CSD search representing the intermolecular I... $\pi$  (phenyl centroid) distance in benzylic iodides.



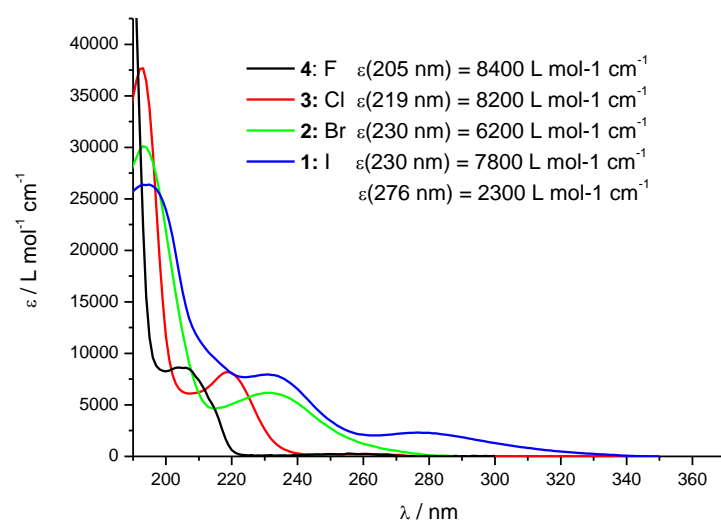
**Figure S2** Histogram from a CSD search representing the intermolecular I... $\pi$  (phenyl centroid) distance in benzylic iodides in the region around the sum of the corresponding van der Waals radii ( $3.85 \pm 0.5 \text{ \AA}$ ).



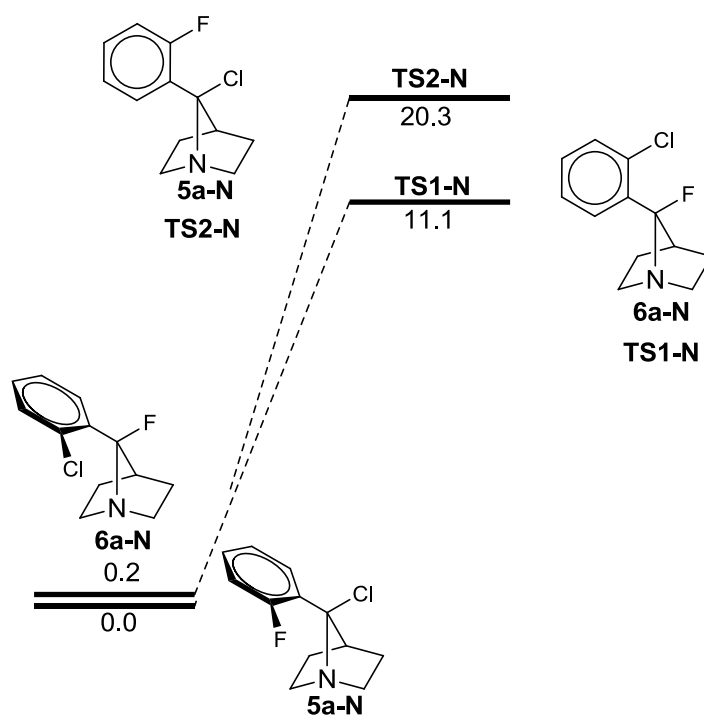
**Figure S3** Histogram from a CSD search representing the intermolecular Br... $\pi$  (centroid) distance in benzylic bromides.



**Figure S4** Histogram from a CSD search representing the intermolecular Br... $\pi$  (phenyl centroid) distance in benzylic bromides in the region around the sum of the corresponding van der Waals radii ( $3.65 \pm 0.5$  Å).

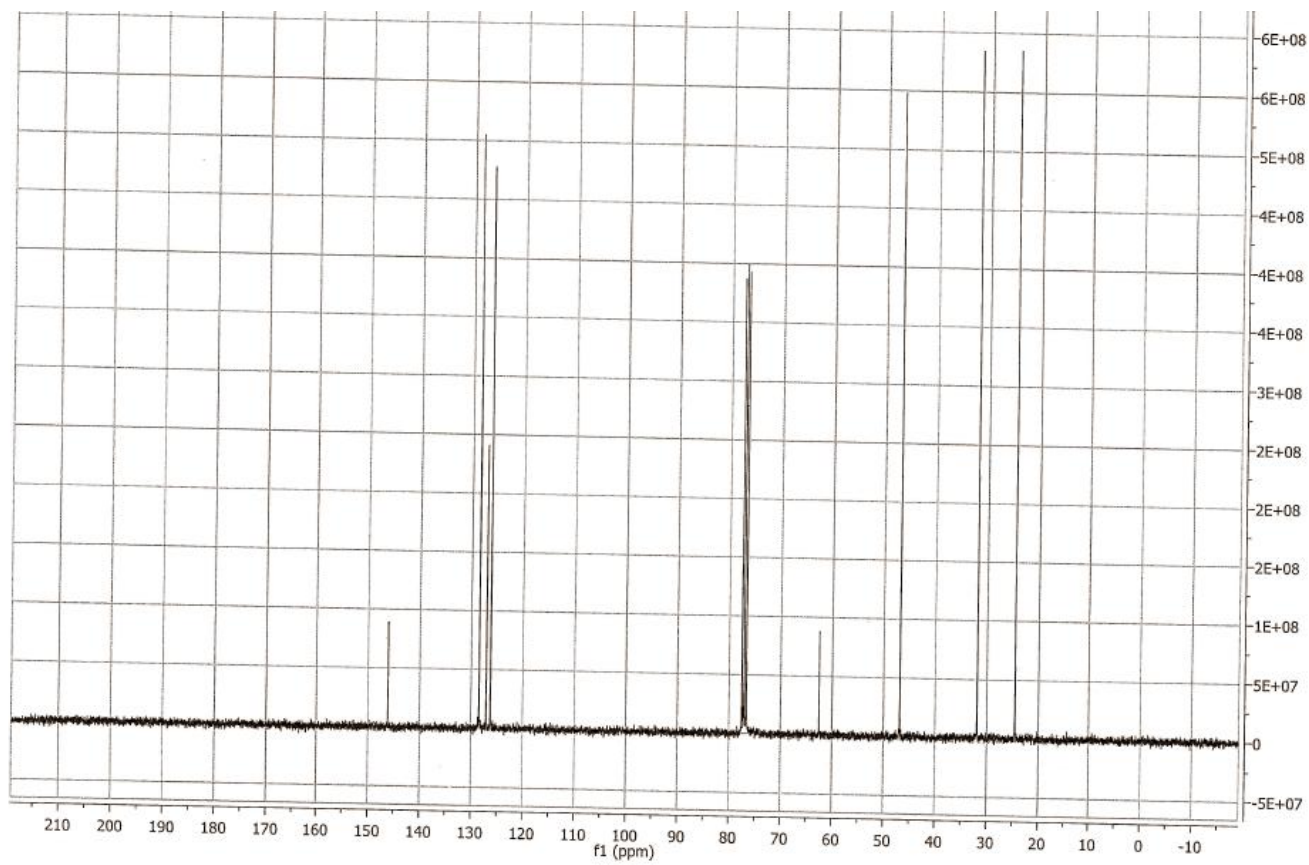
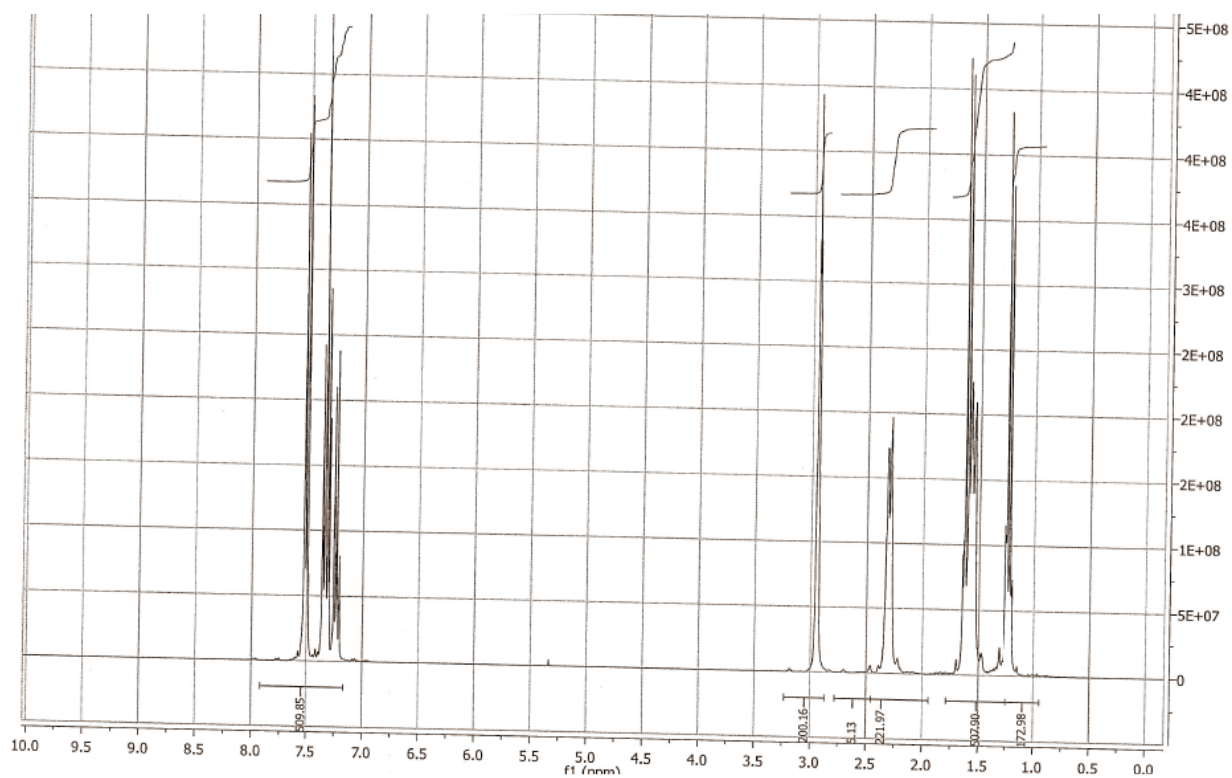


**Figure S5** UV-Vis spectra of benzylic halides **1-4** showing the  $\beta$  (or  $^1B_b$ ) bands.

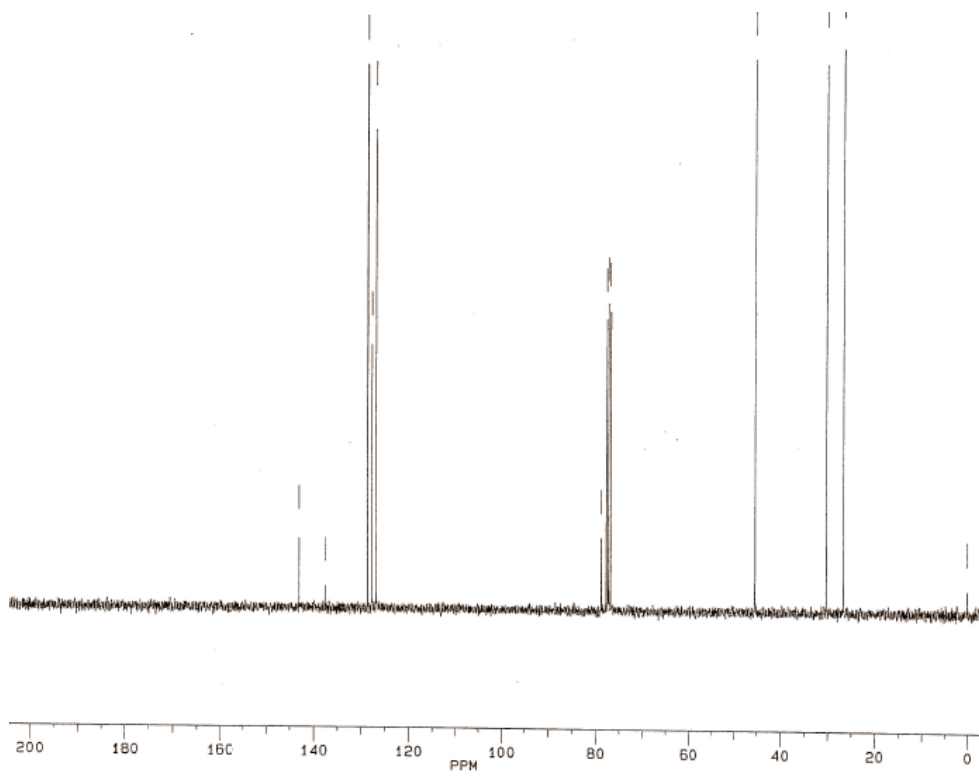
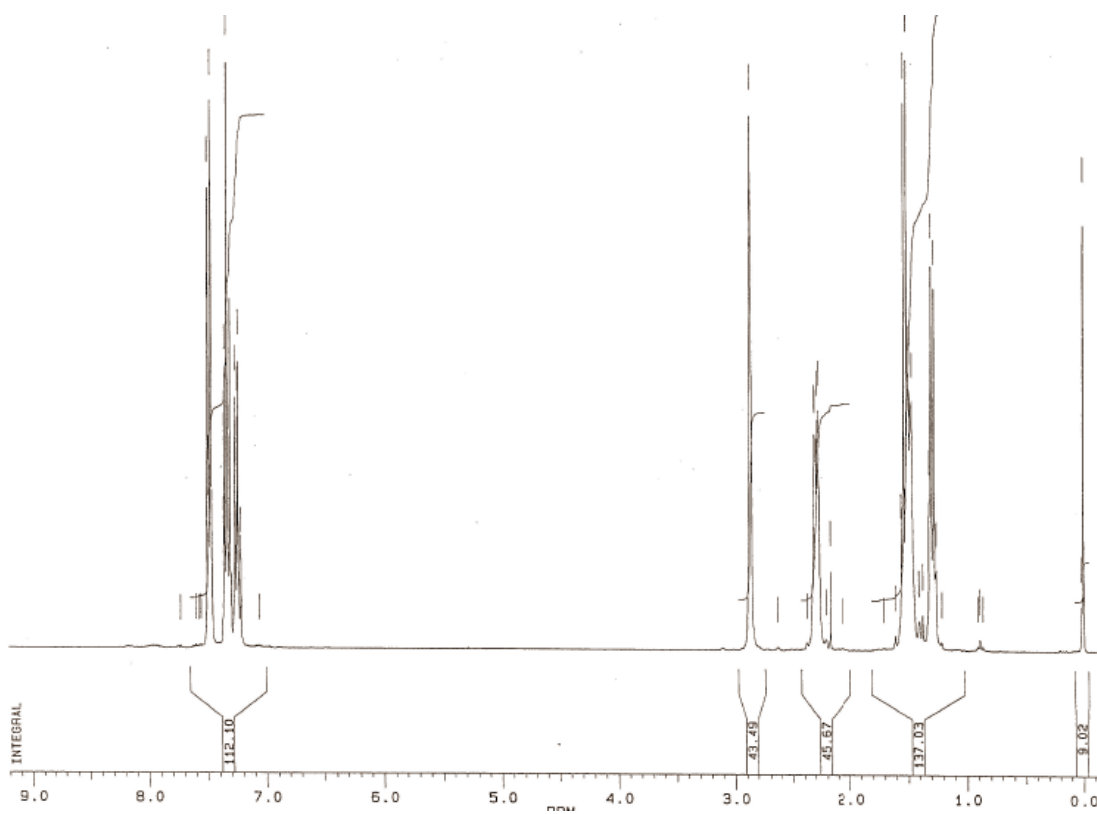


**Figure S6** Calculated (single point) rotation barriers of **5-N** and **6-N**.

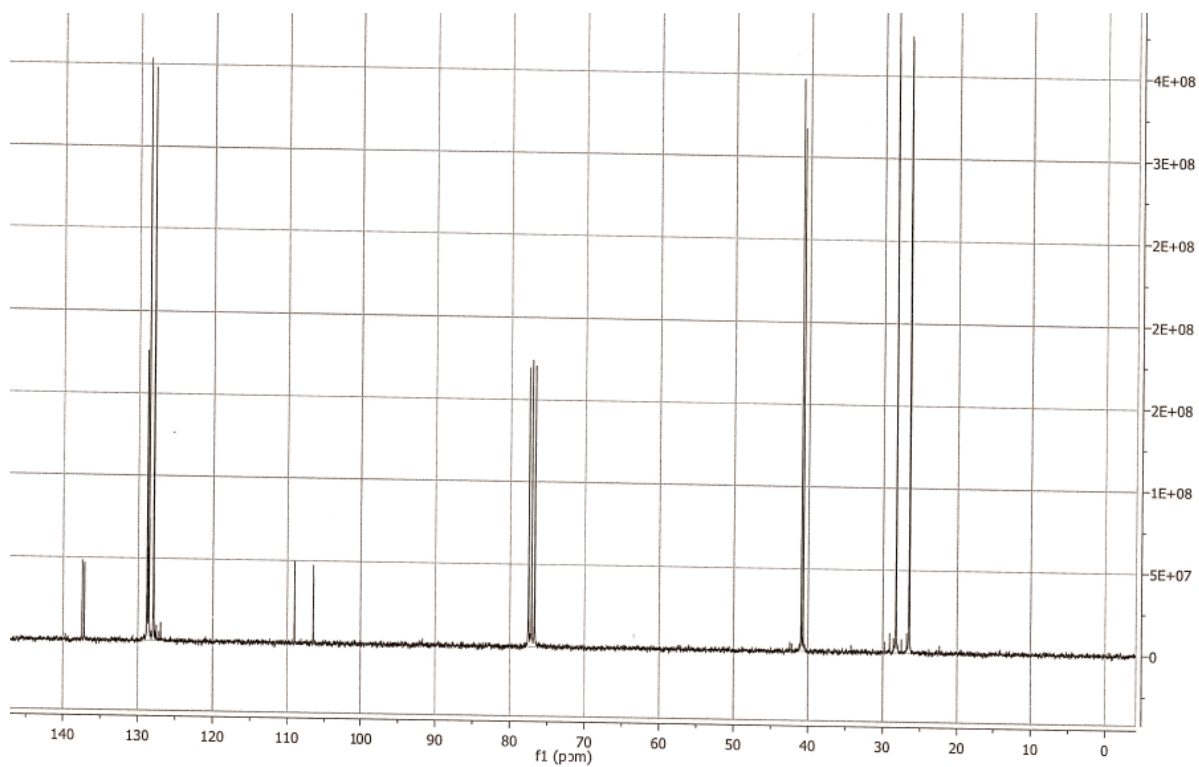
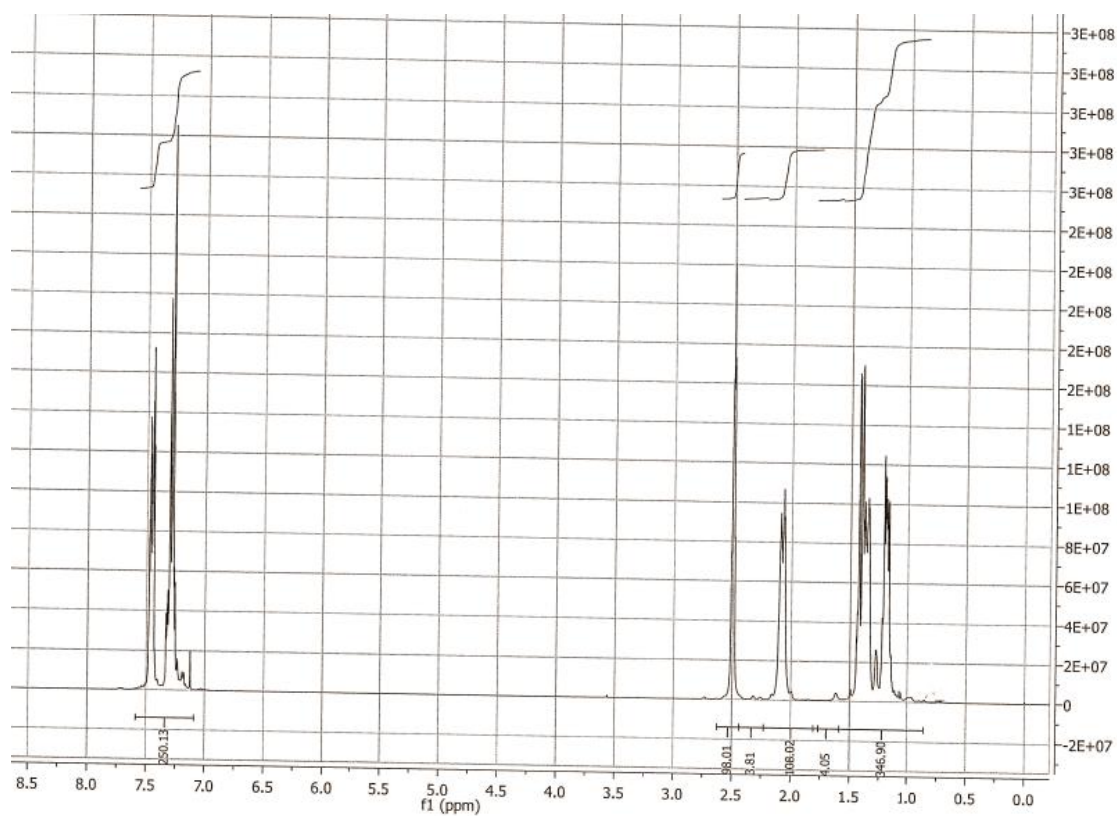
$^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of compound **1**



$^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of compound **2**

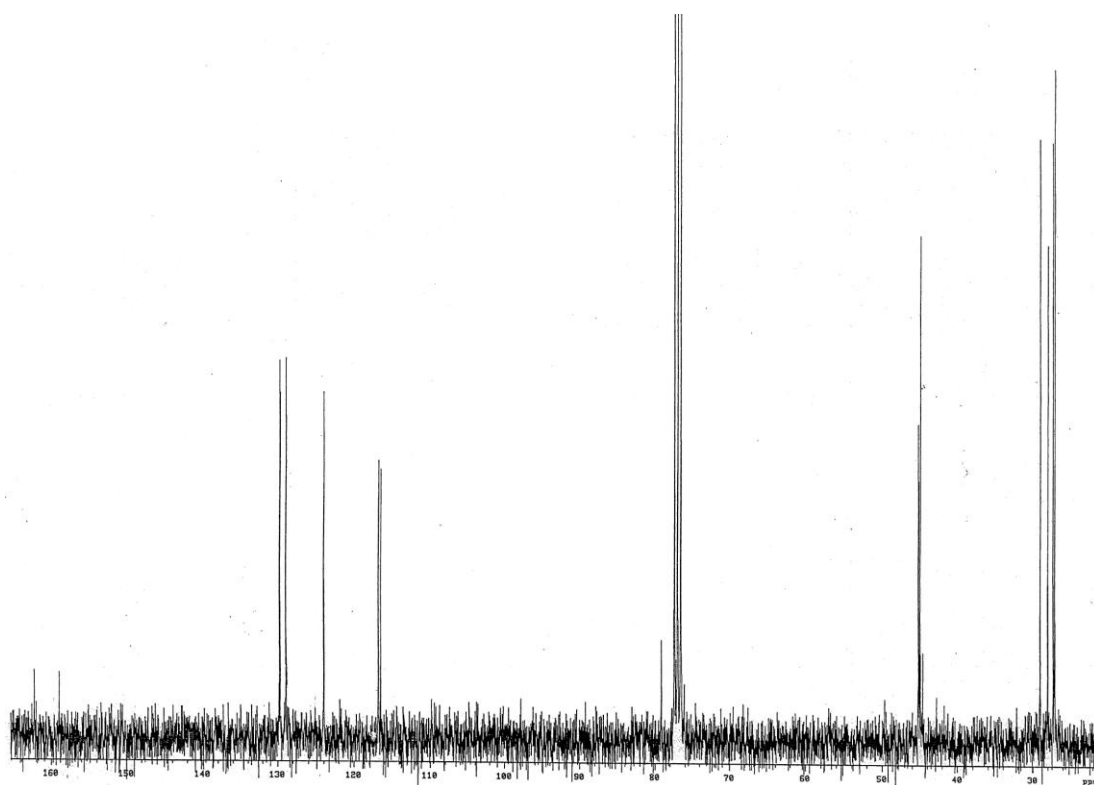
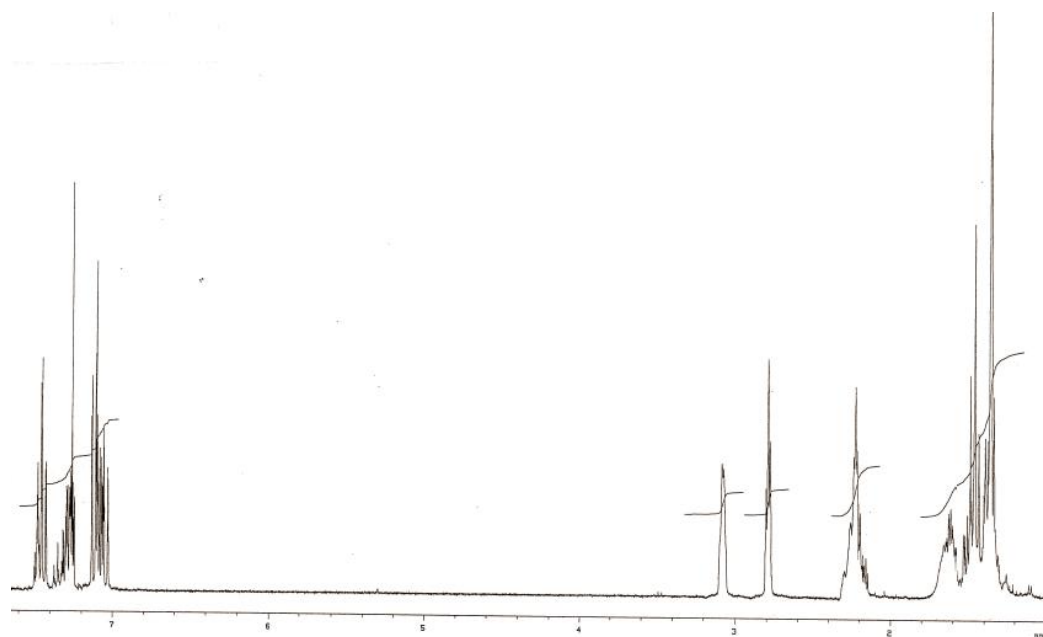


$^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of compound 4

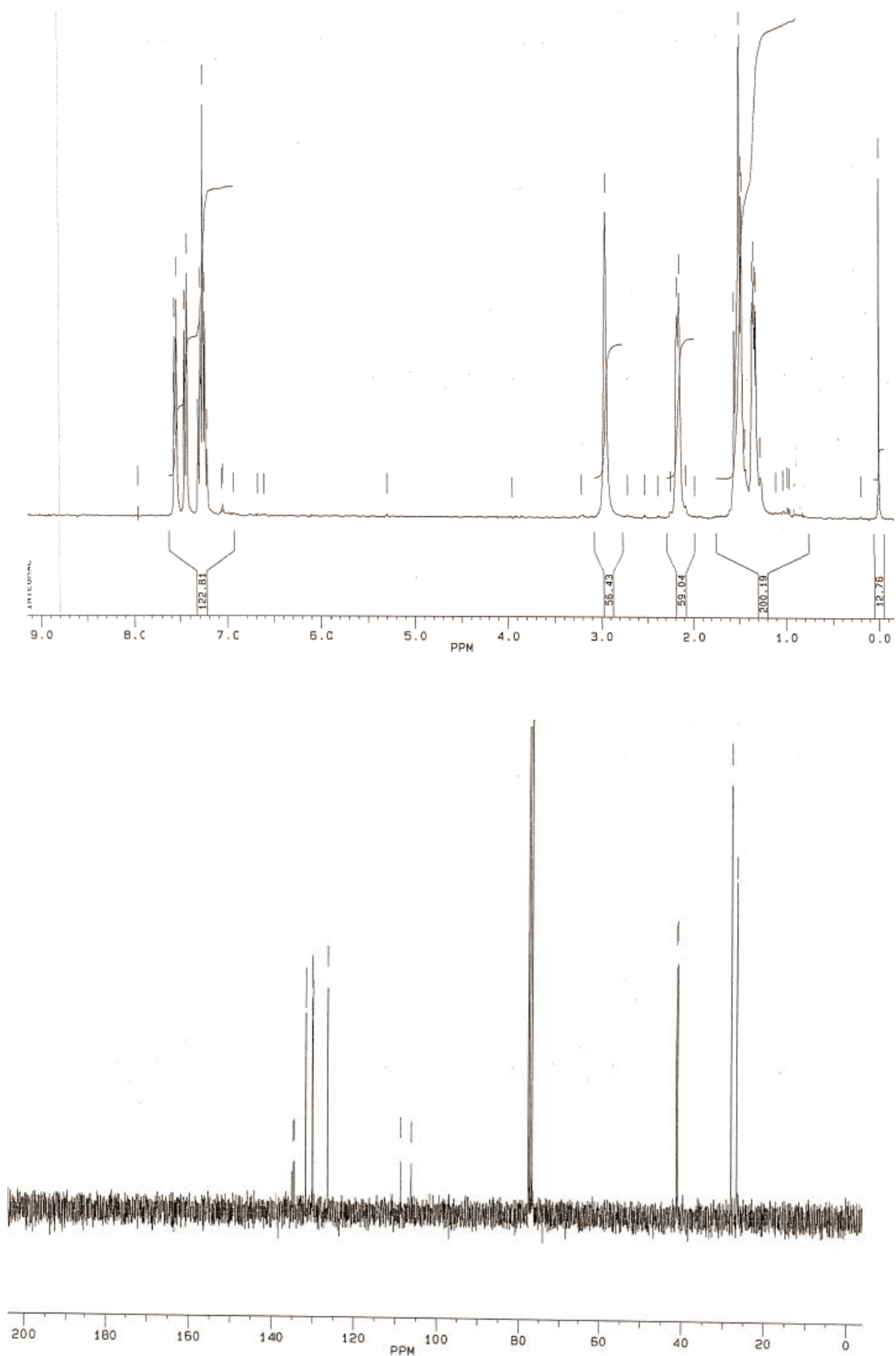




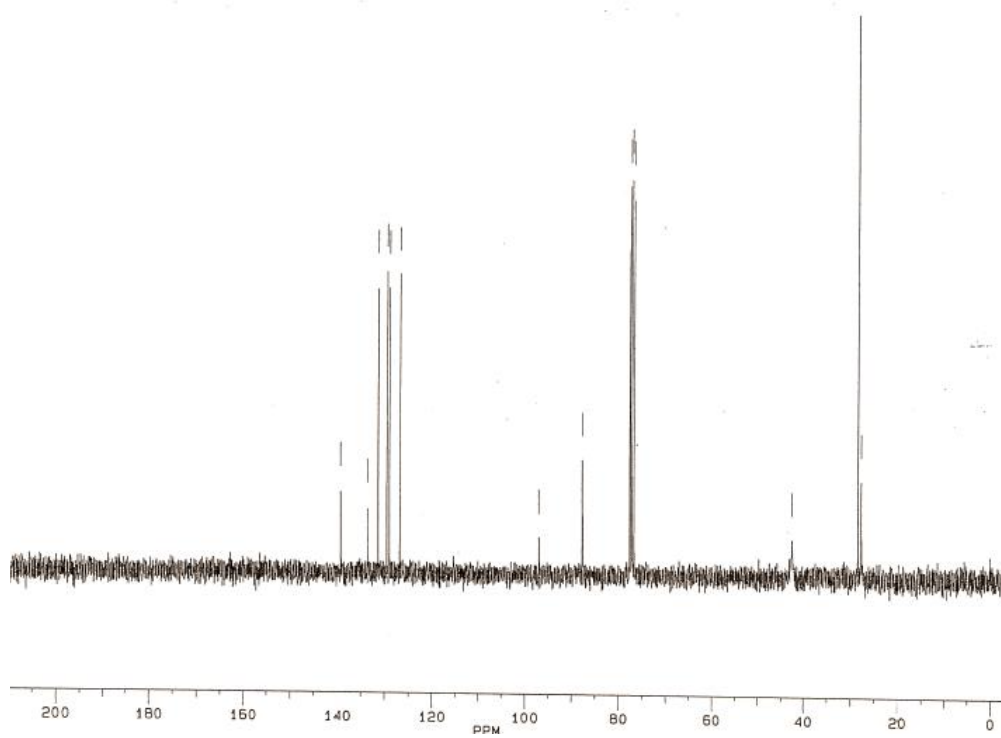
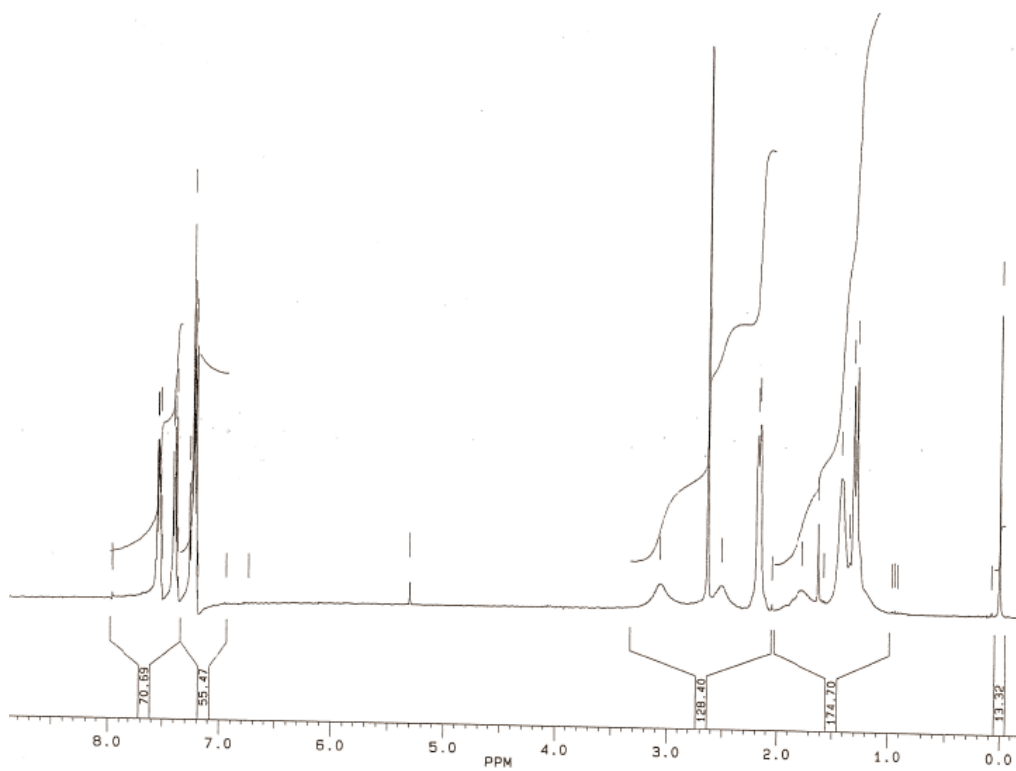
$^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of compound **5**



$^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of compound **6**



$^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of compound **9**



Cartesian coordinates (in Å) and total energies (in hartrees, ZPVE included) of all the stationary points discussed in the text. All calculations have been performed at the M06-2X/def2-TZVPP level.

**1, E = -801.762445**

C	-2.215657000	1.530968000	0.776864000
C	-0.735597000	1.329645000	1.130476000
C	-0.216154000	0.416783000	-0.000006000
C	-0.735687000	1.330156000	-1.130080000
C	-2.215724000	1.531300000	-0.776131000
C	0.005559000	2.635940000	-0.778588000
C	0.005412000	2.635773000	0.779279000
C	1.262238000	0.125819000	0.000090000
C	1.960063000	-0.021492000	-1.196425000
C	3.318435000	-0.299512000	-1.198247000
C	4.004073000	-0.439364000	0.000013000
C	3.317962000	-0.301593000	1.198286000
C	1.959582000	-0.023594000	1.196674000
H	1.435822000	0.073099000	-2.138415000
I	-1.187870000	-1.546088000	-0.000320000
H	-2.589327000	2.463929000	1.196839000
H	-2.589486000	2.464407000	-1.195687000
H	-0.568297000	0.973127000	-2.142968000
H	-0.567916000	0.972447000	2.143251000
H	1.435027000	0.068914000	2.138641000
H	3.839909000	-0.413773000	2.139245000
H	5.063382000	-0.657681000	0.000019000
H	3.840446000	-0.410119000	-2.139329000
H	-0.507888000	3.499826000	-1.198183000
H	1.022583000	2.630064000	-1.166196000
H	-0.508574000	3.499339000	1.198855000
H	1.022348000	2.630398000	1.167144000
H	-2.829023000	0.722072000	-1.166911000
H	-2.828958000	0.721655000	1.167437000

**2, E = -3078.327038**

C	-2.611456000	0.715958000	0.777022000
C	-1.123197000	0.849908000	1.130215000
C	-0.421743000	0.070121000	-0.000021000
C	-1.123313000	0.850437000	-1.129812000
C	-2.611535000	0.716285000	-0.776520000
C	-0.685508000	2.285040000	-0.778532000
C	-0.685360000	2.284651000	0.779562000
C	1.085797000	0.091325000	-0.000019000
C	1.796726000	0.085920000	-1.197053000
C	3.183505000	0.083645000	-1.198730000
C	3.882151000	0.083533000	0.000056000
C	3.183430000	0.081604000	1.198810000
C	1.796663000	0.083878000	1.197053000
H	1.262844000	0.074225000	-2.138052000
Br	-0.931771000	-1.852619000	-0.000460000
H	-3.183426000	1.541517000	1.198637000
H	-3.183581000	1.541998000	-1.197729000
H	-0.878693000	0.536204000	-2.141184000
H	-0.878445000	0.535205000	2.141408000
H	1.262707000	0.070520000	2.137987000
H	3.718778000	0.075674000	2.138834000
H	4.963676000	0.081255000	0.000086000
H	3.718903000	0.079320000	-2.138735000
H	-1.376433000	3.015429000	-1.196924000

H	0.308034000	2.502561000	-1.166877000
H	-1.376137000	3.014898000	1.198449000
H	0.308278000	2.501879000	1.167833000
H	-3.025777000	-0.211184000	-1.165717000
H	-3.025694000	-0.211658000	1.165878000

**3, E = -964.331942**

C	-2.803725000	-0.158938000	-0.730938000
C	-1.351529000	-0.543639000	-1.052619000
C	-0.543983000	0.323837000	-0.065842000
C	-1.311289000	-0.176932000	1.176207000
C	-2.775986000	0.090908000	0.802403000
C	-1.057510000	-1.689949000	1.064985000
C	-1.101439000	-1.947042000	-0.470855000
C	0.952505000	0.118007000	-0.036749000
C	1.672640000	0.413750000	1.118454000
C	3.048103000	0.250713000	1.158635000
C	3.728197000	-0.207978000	0.038341000
C	3.022501000	-0.494077000	-1.120281000
C	1.644331000	-0.329922000	-1.156765000
H	1.152906000	0.787488000	1.991160000
Cl	-0.811460000	2.095222000	-0.354725000
H	-3.486056000	-0.958743000	-1.015424000
H	-3.443485000	-0.573020000	1.350310000
H	-1.005469000	0.264299000	2.121634000
H	-1.087650000	-0.427578000	-2.101095000
H	1.106521000	-0.553529000	-2.068432000
H	3.544057000	-0.845113000	-2.000772000
H	4.801731000	-0.336862000	0.067894000
H	3.590557000	0.485246000	2.064756000
H	-1.814620000	-2.254887000	1.606798000
H	-0.084229000	-1.956346000	1.474749000
H	-1.898399000	-2.631848000	-0.756842000
H	-0.160147000	-2.366131000	-0.821385000
H	-3.058036000	1.115700000	1.033712000
H	-3.099757000	0.740134000	-1.266598000

**4, E = -603.980805**

C	-1.565286000	1.009331000	-0.618375000
C	-0.912657000	-0.143960000	-0.199727000
C	-1.663705000	-1.169140000	0.371390000
C	-3.033614000	-1.039111000	0.533040000
C	-3.674227000	0.123749000	0.124577000
C	-2.937816000	1.145587000	-0.454028000
C	0.571097000	-0.344970000	-0.389548000
C	1.436626000	0.885249000	-0.703103000
C	2.829593000	0.244440000	-0.801575000
C	2.791035000	-0.859792000	0.294616000
C	1.368014000	-0.745083000	0.863671000
C	1.266436000	0.538432000	1.694553000
C	1.364021000	1.663719000	0.620892000
F	0.727250000	-1.316591000	-1.381456000
H	-1.169376000	-2.081652000	0.679590000
H	3.612997000	0.982046000	-0.632722000
H	3.538074000	-0.707550000	1.072943000
H	1.012799000	-1.640103000	1.369932000
H	1.146657000	1.450627000	-1.586255000
H	-1.004266000	1.809946000	-1.081750000
H	-3.430928000	2.050567000	-0.783218000

H	-4.743185000	0.229624000	0.253223000
H	-3.602506000	-1.844727000	0.977807000
H	2.059917000	0.596880000	2.438157000
H	0.312558000	0.587623000	2.219268000
H	2.248621000	2.286039000	0.750864000
H	0.493899000	2.316307000	0.664077000
H	2.956955000	-1.841983000	-0.142692000
H	2.985435000	-0.195036000	-1.784415000

**5a,** E = -1063.586307

F	0.927201000	-0.571083000	-1.845072000
C	0.768980000	-0.289384000	-0.486930000
C	1.557855000	0.978248000	-0.111150000
C	1.472135000	0.940189000	1.420352000
C	1.536283000	-0.582822000	1.743342000
C	1.659395000	-1.229588000	0.358053000
C	3.051251000	-0.933155000	-0.211881000
C	2.982429000	0.583420000	-0.531115000
C	-0.721430000	-0.418619000	-0.200638000
C	-1.659097000	0.605437000	-0.060153000
C	-3.004549000	0.335458000	0.173793000
C	-3.455833000	-0.967671000	0.245993000
C	-2.556446000	-2.008713000	0.070456000
C	-1.221755000	-1.724773000	-0.146661000
C1	-1.268255000	2.295166000	-0.197062000
H	-0.533223000	-2.543411000	-0.297664000
H	3.720825000	1.166079000	0.018583000
H	3.830384000	-1.181075000	0.508173000
H	1.393757000	-2.282569000	0.332735000
H	1.220804000	1.900155000	-0.566258000
H	-3.688189000	1.164747000	0.285010000
H	-4.503816000	-1.164751000	0.425883000
H	-2.891588000	-3.036205000	0.101484000
H	2.382909000	-0.845584000	2.375982000
H	0.628610000	-0.910765000	2.249687000
H	2.291218000	1.498175000	1.871877000
H	0.540474000	1.376875000	1.778013000
H	3.231737000	-1.511408000	-1.115681000
H	3.136329000	0.763492000	-1.592876000

**6a,** E = -1063.591140

C1	-0.842908000	-1.631802000	-1.315594000
C	-0.624423000	-0.170830000	-0.267251000
C	-1.360604000	-0.312273000	1.085994000
C	-1.151808000	1.097752000	1.658564000
C	-1.291251000	2.015172000	0.407821000
C	-1.496869000	1.010888000	-0.743170000
C	-2.919082000	0.447641000	-0.611811000
C	-2.829511000	-0.442937000	0.657842000
C	0.861751000	0.087037000	-0.200634000
C	1.701683000	-0.718934000	0.560851000
C	3.066783000	-0.529888000	0.634946000
C	3.641465000	0.502892000	-0.089382000
C	2.842844000	1.318153000	-0.876869000
C	1.473315000	1.104578000	-0.928753000
F	1.177766000	-1.741813000	1.253525000
H	0.863441000	1.741238000	-1.554428000
H	-3.494332000	-0.109074000	1.453518000
H	-3.645247000	1.252925000	-0.511756000
H	-1.264872000	1.391539000	-1.735138000

H	-1.006652000	-1.115341000	1.722651000
H	3.654219000	-1.195620000	1.251439000
H	4.709733000	0.663002000	-0.041620000
H	3.283888000	2.118984000	-1.453788000
H	-2.141013000	2.692354000	0.479761000
H	-0.398061000	2.621048000	0.269070000
H	-1.886905000	1.321861000	2.429959000
H	-0.161885000	1.197219000	2.103017000
H	-3.190804000	-0.142427000	-1.484038000
H	-3.077725000	-1.476255000	0.425860000

**TS1, E = -1063.571620**

C	1.878626000	-0.449962000	-0.000064000
C	0.690257000	0.304343000	-0.000307000
C	0.867065000	1.695255000	-0.000211000
C	2.105277000	2.310332000	-0.000083000
C	3.254526000	1.540024000	0.000012000
C	3.128251000	0.166616000	0.000050000
C	-0.721503000	-0.278984000	-0.000282000
C	-1.708443000	0.103936000	1.133293000
C	-2.155807000	1.529263000	0.779445000
C	-2.156079000	1.529587000	-0.778697000
C	-1.708917000	0.104415000	-1.133285000
C	-2.887798000	-0.823741000	-0.779903000
C	-2.887610000	-0.823909000	0.780055000
F	-0.601727000	-1.658532000	-0.000634000
H	0.008245000	2.338409000	-0.000147000
Cl	1.990168000	-2.189353000	0.000198000
H	-3.816615000	-0.439792000	1.198723000
H	-3.817047000	-0.439971000	-1.198355000
H	-1.315990000	-0.019891000	-2.139781000
H	-1.314958000	-0.020673000	2.139532000
H	2.162313000	3.390088000	-0.000042000
H	4.235260000	1.995213000	0.000113000
H	4.004718000	-0.465079000	0.000204000
H	-3.147415000	1.723274000	-1.185884000
H	-1.495968000	2.287068000	-1.195257000
H	-3.147071000	1.722589000	1.186982000
H	-1.495733000	2.286696000	1.196145000
H	-2.731981000	-1.827459000	-1.165740000
H	-2.732135000	-1.827745000	1.165720000

**TS2, E = -1063.561825**

C	-1.964596000	0.822039000	0.000074000
C	-0.900199000	-0.097408000	-0.000454000
C	-1.337624000	-1.435210000	-0.000742000
C	-2.664362000	-1.826899000	-0.000526000
C	-3.669631000	-0.876608000	0.000159000
C	-3.301985000	0.450309000	0.000453000
C	0.606381000	0.235917000	-0.000288000
C	1.500688000	-0.365476000	1.130586000
C	1.582849000	-1.862565000	0.779036000
C	1.583679000	-1.862936000	-0.777944000
C	1.501280000	-0.366029000	-1.130438000
C	2.891513000	0.202390000	-0.778794000
C	2.891243000	0.202431000	0.779261000
Cl	0.818874000	2.032620000	-0.000509000
H	-0.622181000	-2.229409000	-0.001371000

F	-1.803745000	2.150599000	0.000361000
H	3.671112000	-0.434952000	1.192768000
H	3.671829000	-0.434574000	-1.192091000
H	1.159384000	-0.147764000	-2.139404000
H	1.158298000	-0.146515000	2.139233000
H	-2.900049000	-2.882131000	-0.000856000
H	-4.713264000	-1.159263000	0.000444000
H	-4.031320000	1.248113000	0.001157000
H	2.501681000	-2.287033000	-1.181167000
H	0.766823000	-2.438535000	-1.204622000
H	2.500252000	-2.286832000	1.183430000
H	0.765236000	-2.437565000	1.205076000
H	3.034726000	1.203418000	-1.173591000
H	3.034898000	1.203382000	1.174107000